

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 7078

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO, MNUC, UK

SUBJECT: NPG TECHNOLOGY STUDY

REF: STATE 278663

BEGIN SUMMARY. IN 20 DECEMBER CONVERSATION WITH MISSION OFFICER, UK REP TO NPG STAFF GROUP SIAD THAT UK AUTHORITIES WERE "EXTREMELY DISAPPOINTED" WITH US PROPOSAL TO HOLD FIRST MEETING OF THE FULL STUDY PANEL OF THE NPG TCHNOLOGY STUDY GROUP ON 6-7 FEBRUARY 1975, RATHER THAN DURING WEEK OF 20 JANUARY. UK REP REQUESTED THAT MISSION OFFICER CONVEY UK DISAPPOINTMENT AND REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED DATES TO APPROPRIATE US AUTHORITIES. END SUMMARY.

1. ON 20 DECEMBER, MISSION OFFICER (ROBBINS) DISCUSSED WITH UK REP (BEAUMONT) DATE PROPOSED IN REFTEL FOR BRIEFING OF NPG STAFF GROUP BY PHASE II FOLLOW-UP USE STUDY TEAM. DURING CONVERSATION, UK REP ASKED WHEN US PLANS TO HOLD THE FIRST MEETING OF THE FULL STUDY PANEL OF NPG TECHNOLOGY STUDY GROUP. MISSION OFFICER ANSWERED, CONFIDENTIAL

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PER REFTEL, THAT US PROPOSED THE DATES OF 6-7 FEBRUARY. UK REP RESPONDED BY STATING HIS OWN DISAPPOINTMENT AT FURTHER DELAY IN MEETING DATE, AND SAID HE WAS SURE HIS AUTHORITIES WOULD SHARE THIS DISAPPOINTMENT.

2. LATER IN DAY, UK REP CONTACTED MISSION OFFICER TO CONVEY SUBSTANCE OF EXCHANGE WITH HIS AUTHORITIES IN LONDON. UK REP SAID HE WAS INSTRUCTED TO INFORM MISSION OFFICER THAT HIS AUTHORITIES WERE "EXTREMELY DISAPPOINTED" IN THE FEBRUARY DATES WHICH US PROPOSED FOR LAUNCHING THE NPG TECHNOLOGY STUDY. UK REP SAID THAT HIS AUTHORITIES DID NOT UNDERSTAND WHY THE US COULD NOT SCHEDULE FOR NOVEMBER, SINCE THE US MUST HAVE ALREADY ACCOMPLISHED MAJOR PORTION OF ITS BACKGROUND WORK TO MEET THE EARLIER SCHEDULE. HE STRESSED THAT UK IS INTERESTED IN EARLY LAUNCHING OF A STUDY THAT HAS ALREADY MET WITH CONSIDERABLE DELAY. PER REFTEL, MISSION OFFICER NOTED OTHER ACTIVITIES SCHEDULED FOR LATE JANUARY, INCLUDING DEFENSE PLANNING WORKSHOP AT OBERAMMERGAU, WHICH INVOLVED PREPARATORY WORK BY MANY OF THE SAME PERSONS INVOLVED WITH THE NPG TECHNOLOGY STUDY. UK REP RESPONDED BY REPEATING EARLIER OBSERVATION THAT US MUST HAVE ALREADY PREPARED MOST OF THE MATERIAL PERTAINING TO THE NPG TECHNOLOGY STUDY. HE SAID THAT HOLDING THE MEETINGS OF THE PHASE II FOLLOW-ON USE STUDY TEAM AND THE NPG TECHNOLOGY STUDY GROUP IN BRUSSELS DURING THE WEEK OF 20 JANUARY WOULD PERMIT THOSE PARTICIPATING IN THE DEFENSE PLANNING WORKSHOP AT OBERAMMERGAU TO DO SO AND WOULD MINIMIZE BOTH TRAVEL TIME AND EXPENSE. HE CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT HIS AUTHORITIES INSTRUCTED HIM TO REQUEST THAT MISSION OFFICER FORWARD UK VIEWS TO WASHINGTON ALONG WITH UK REQUEST THAT WASHINGTON RECONSIDER PROPOSED DATES FOR LAUNCHING THE TECHNOLOGY STUDY. HE REPEATED THAT UK PREFERS TO HOLD THE TWO MEETINGS DURING THE SAME WEEK IN ORDER TO MINIMIZE TRAVEL FOR NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES, AND THAT UK CLEARLY PREFERS TO HOLD THE MEETINGS DURING WEEK OF 20 JANUARY RATHER THAN 6-7 FEBRUARY AS US PROPOSES.

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